

IN THE CLAIMS:

This complete listing of the pending claims replaces all previous listings of the claims.

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A device for lifting the front hood (20) of a motor vehicle in case of collision with a pedestrian, comprising

a retaining member (10) for securing the hood (20) to a vehicle body (14), and

a pyrotechnic explosive unit (16) for releasing the retaining member (10),

wherein the energy released by the explosive unit (16) upon releasing the retaining member (10) also actuates lift means (18) for lifting the front hood (20) into a collision position,

wherein the explosive unit (16) is in a hollow space in the retaining member (10),

wherein the lift means (18) includes a lift device expandable by means of the propulsion gas of the explosive unit (16), is connected to the hood and the body and limits and/or guides the lift movement of the hood, and

wherein the lift device expandable by means of the propulsion gas of the explosive unit (16) is a fabric bag, a folded bellows or telescopic pipe expansion unit (44; 58).

19. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the retaining member (10) forms a connecting element for rigid connection of the hood (20) with the vehicle body (14) in at least the lift direction.

20. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the retaining member (10) includes two retaining member parts (28, 30) separable along an intended break line or

site by the explosive unit (16), and that the retaining member parts (28, 30) are movable apart from each other as lift means (18) by the explosive unit (16).

21. (canceled)
22. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the lift means (18) includes a transmission element for transmission of the impulse released by the propulsive gas of the explosive unit (16).
23. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the lift means (18) includes a cylinder element (32) enveloping the retaining member (10) and the therein located explosive unit (16).
24. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 23, wherein the cylinder element (32) is a jacket or casing.
25. (canceled)
26. (canceled)
27. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the front hood (20) is linked to the vehicle body (14) via a multi-articulated fold hinge (20), wherein a first linkage (68) is provided for the normal operation and a second linkage (70) is provided for the case of collision and the hinge elements (74, 76) connected via the second linkage (70) are secured to each other by the retaining member (10) and expanded or unfolded relative to each other by the explosive unit (16).
28. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the explosive unit (16) is provided in a swan-neck shaped hinge element connecting the hood hinge (20) with the vehicle body (14), and wherein the hinge element forming a retaining member (10) is separable by the explosive unit (16).

29. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the lift means (18) includes a lift piston (62) guided in a lift cylinder (60), wherein the lift piston (62) is secured in a locking position by the retaining member (10) and the retaining member (10) is releasable by the propulsive gas of the explosive unit (60) acting upon the lift cylinder (16).
30. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 29, wherein the retaining member (10) in the locking position produces a form fit between lift piston (62) and lift cylinder (62), and by means of the propulsive gas is movable into a release position releasing the form fit.
31. (withdrawn) The device according to Claim 30, wherein the retaining member (10) is in the form of a guide pin.
32. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 18, wherein the explosive unit (16) while effective as pyrotechnic drive means produces propulsive or drive gas.
33. (canceled)
34. (withdrawn, currently amended) The device according to Claim ~~18~~ 33, wherein the lift limiter (34) is a movable fabric part or a tearable or bendable sheet metal or a deformable plastic part.
35. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 18, wherein for securing the front hood (20) against a displacement transverse to the lift direction, at least one guide element (40) engaging in a guide opening (42) is provided.
36. (currently amended) A motor vehicle including a device for lifting the front hood (20) of the motor vehicle in case of collision with a pedestrian, said device comprising

a retaining member (10) for securing the hood (20) to a vehicle body (14),

a pyrotechnic explosive unit (16) for releasing the retaining member (10),

wherein the energy released by the explosive unit (16) upon releasing the retaining member (10) also actuates lift means (18) for lifting the front hood (20) into a collision position,

wherein the explosive unit (16) is in a hollow space in the retaining member (10),

wherein the lift means (18) includes a lift device expandable by means of the propulsion gas of the explosive unit (16), is connected to the hood and the body and limits and/or guides the lift movement of the hood, and

wherein the lift device expandable by means of the propulsion gas of the explosive unit (16) is a fabric bag, a folded bellows or telescopic pipe expansion unit (44; 58).

37. (currently amended) A process for lifting the front hood (20) of a motor vehicle during a collision with a pedestrian, in which the front hood (20) is secured to the vehicle body (14) in operating condition via a retaining member (10), said process comprising:

in the case of collision, releasing the connection by the retaining member (10) by means of the pyrotechnic explosive unit (16),

wherein the front hood (20) is lifted into a collision position by means of the energy of the explosive unit (16) released upon releasing of the retaining member (10),

wherein the explosive unit (16) is in a hollow space in the retaining member (10),

wherein the lift means (18) includes a lift device expandable by means of the propulsion gas of the explosive unit (16), is connected to the hood and the body and limits and/or guides the lift movement of the hood, and

wherein the lift device expandable by means of the propulsion gas of the explosive unit (16) is a fabric bag, a folded bellows or telescopic pipe expansion unit (44; 58).